CXIII.

A Full ACCOUNT Of a Bold and Barbarous Murther Committed on the Body of William Culliford Esq; BY George Cruff, IN

Water-Lane near the Custom-House *London*, on *Friday* the 8*th.* day of *August*, 1684. in the open street between the hours of 11 and 12 of the same day.

As also

The Relation of a Gentleman of Qualities Groom, who was Shot by a Life-Guardman upon *Munday* the 4*th.* of this Instant in the Town of *Kensington.*

TOGETHER

With the further Account of a Lamentable Fire that happened in a Town call'd *Church-Hill*, within two Miles of *Chipping-Norton*, in *Oxfordsheire*, on *Wednesday* the 30*th.* of *July*, last.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

THe depravity of Mans Nature is such, that if God once Withdraws the assistance of his Grace and Spirit from him; No Action, tho the same in it self be never so Horrid and Unnatural, but he is too prone to undertake, and go through with. An Instance of this kind, as rare perhaps, as any, the present or past Ages could afford; the Reader shall be satisfied with in the ensuing Page.

On *Friday* the 8*th.* Day of *August*, 1684. *William Cullifiord* Esq; a Gentleman of known Loyalty and Integrity to his Prince and Country, having had some Business at the *Custom.House* in *London*, as he came thence, and was going up the *Hill* in *Water-lane*, not far from the Post and Chain; he was followed by one *George Cruffe* (formerly in some Office belonging to the *Custom-House*, and since turned out for Misdemeanours) till he came just against the *Plummers* Shop in the same *Lane*; where unperceived, the said *Cruff* came up to him, and drawing out a *Pistol*, suddenly Discharged upon him, and shot a brace of *Bullets* into his Body. The strangeness of the Attempt, the same being at Noon-Day, and in so Publick a Place, was the Astonishment of all such who beheld it; who came in Immediately to the Apprehension of the Criminal, but he seemed not at all Concerned thereat: and never so much as endeavoured his Escape: declaring that if the Action were a second time to have been Committed, he would willingly and readily have undertaken the same. The Audacious Villain being thereupon taken into Custody: Squire *Culliford* was carried into the *Dolphin-Tavern*, at the end of *Mark-Lane*; where likewise they brought the Malefactor.

Soon

Soon after which notice being given hereof to the Worſhipful Sir *John Buckworth*, Knight and Alderman of the City of *London*, who was at the ſame time ſitting as Commiſſioner, in the *Cuſtom Houſe* he came to the *Dolphin*, and being one of the Juſtices of the Peace for *London*, he took the fellow nto Examination inquiring into the reaſon of ſo Barbarous an Attempt, which the fellow would not in the leaſt extenuate, but boldly declared that he did and had long ſince intended the Fact, which he was not at all ſorry for, pretending that the Squire had wronged or otherwiſe injured him in the Diſplacing him from his former Imployment and Lively-hood, in the World: carrying it all the while ſo unconcerned, that all Perſons ſtood amazed thereat: Nay ſuch a Monſtrous height of Impudence poſſeſt the execrable and abominable wretch, that he declared if any other perſon had done him the like injury, and his liberty were reſtored him he would in like manner take revenge upon him for ſo doing, adding, that nothing troubled him but that he had not ſeen the Gentleman Dead before his Confinement in *Newgate*, whether he was forthwith Committed and where he now remains, to conſider of the Villany he ſtands Guilty of; which certainly is one of the moſt bare-Faced and audacious Crimes we have read or heard of: Not only in that the ſame was done at Mid-day but alſo in the Publick ſtreet without either hope or intention of Eſcape or Pardon, ſo that we may juſtly reckon this a ſecond *Felton*, who out of a like Spirit of forethought Malice and revenge Murdered the late Duke of *Buckingham*, and who in Point of Honour owned and bragg'd of his Villany to the very place of Execution: whether in due time the juſtice of Nation, will undoubtedly bring all ſuch Criminalls.

But tho the Example of ſuch Mens Faults are every Day ſet as a Warning to others, yet is the Temptations of the *Devil* ſo prevalent on too many; that ſeldom a Week but affords us more than one Inſtance of this kind, as this hath done. For that one *Monday* laſt at *Kenſington* in the County of *Middleſex*, a Perſon of Quality's Groom being Rideing out of Town, he wrs met by a *Lifeguard-Man*, in the middle of the Town, near the *Red-Lyon-Inn*, and ſome Difference hapning between them about the Way, they Quarreled, and ſeveral Blows were exchanged between them, till at laſt the Groom ſtruck him over the Face with his Whip ſo ſevere a Blow that the Blood guſh't out, which put the *Lifeguard-Man* into ſo great a Paſſion that immediately drawing out one of his *Piſtols*, he clap'd the ſame to the Temples, of the Groom: and tho as ſome believe the ſame was only Charged with Powder, yet the ſame had ſuch effect upon him that, both his Eyes were Shot out, and made ſo great a Wound in his Head that when the *Chyrurgeon* came to Probe it, he could turn his Fingure therein; ſo that all People looked on the ſame as Mortal. The Groom that was thus Wounded was carried into the *Red-Lyon-Inn* aforeſaid: But the *Lifeguard-man* ſeeing him fall, being well Mounted, made away with all the ſpeed he could; and tho ſeveral People purſued him, Eſcaped as far as *Chertſea*, on the otherſide of the Water, in the County of *Surrey*; where it was found that he had left his Horſe, and had betaken himſelf either to ſome private reception in the Town, or gone further a field, out of the reach of the Hue and Cry: ſo that he is not taken, nor hath as yet Rendred himſelf up to Juſtice. But when Blood Crys for Vengeance, as in this caſe, rare it is but Providence in due time regards the voice thereof, and brings a due and Condign Puniſhment on his Head, that unlawfully and Murderouſly ſheds the ſame,

Having given you theſe 2 Relations, I thought fit to ſubjoyn the further account of a certain *Fire*, that hapned at a little Town call'd *Church-hill*, near *Chipping-Norton* in *Oxford-ſheire*; which fell out by the Covetuoſneſs of an Old Woman, who to ſave the expence of *Chimney-Money*: and being by Trade a *Baker*: had made a Funnel from her *Oven* into another *Chimney*: which tho ſhe had notice of, and twice before had like io have Burnt the Houſe; yet did ſhe not alter the ſame; till on *Wedneſday* the 30*th*. of *July* laſt, about four or five of the Clock in the Afternoon a *Fire* Broke out, which continued ſo fierce, that in the ſpace of four Hours the ſame Conſumed Twenty Habitations, beſides Barns and out Houſes in the ſtopping whereof, four People were Kill'd two by falling of the Ruines, and two Burnt.

L O N D O N,

Printed by *George Croom*, at the *Blue-Ball*, over againſt *Baynard's Caſtle*, in *Thames-ſtreet*, 1684.